Contingent plan to promote tourism in India

3348. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item "Government unshackles tourist air charters" appearing in the Economic Times dated 20th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have assessed the impact of the step to open the doors for free movement of tourist charters on the volume of incoming tourists and growth of tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to draw up a contingent plan to further promote tourism in India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have reviewed the conditions for operation of tourist charter flights to India. Further, conditions for tourist charter flights out of India have also been liberalised by the Government. Liberalisation is an ongoing process. Depending on the outcomes of these recent steps further efforts will continue.

(c) and (d) It is too early to assess impact of the measures.

(e) In order to attract more foreign tourists to India the Government has taken the following steps:

- Promotion of ethnic traffic like PIOs, NRIs specially from USA, Canada, South Africa and Mauritius.
- Promotion of tourist charters.
- Organising Fam tours for Travel Agents/Tour Operators/TV Teams/Travel Writers/Decision and Opinion Makers for projecting India's positive image.
- Use of information technology for promotion of tourism: Website, Kiosks, CD's Rom etc.
- Promotion of culture, heritage, health and religious tourism.

- Participation of tourism exhibition like WTM, ITB, EIBTM, BIT, FITUR etc.
- Promotion of incentive, conference and convention tourism.
- Holding of PATA 2002 in India.

Development of Tourism in Rajasthan

3349. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of foreign tourists who visited Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the year-wise details of foreign exchange earned through tourists during the above period;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any "Special Plan to improve Tourism" in the State during 2001-2002 and if so, what allocations made therefor; and

(d) the details of the plan formulated {District-wise) so as to attract tourist from all over the World?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The number of visits of foreign tourists to Rajasthan during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Foreign Tourist Visits
1998	591369
1999	562685
2000	623100

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings through tourism for the country as a whole for the last three years are as follows:

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rs. crores)
1998	12,150
1999	12,951
2000	14,238

(c) The development of tourism in any State/UT is mainly undertaken by the State Government/UT Administration. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India, provides financial assistance to the State Governments/